

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-14

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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:TBLEHA:BDS

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SCA/VO - MR. BLEVINS (SUBS)

CU/EA - MR. HARDING (INFO)

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, TW

SUBJECT: ROC NATIONAL OPERA TROUPE VISIT TO US

REF: (A) TAIPEI 5927; (B) TAIPEI 5986

1. H-1 PETITION FOR OPERA TROUPE WAS APPROVED BY INS SEPTEMBER 23. INFORMATION TO PERMIT VISA ISSUANCE IS BEING PROVIDED EMBASSY IN SEPTTEL. SPOKANE VISIT, INCIDENTALLY, WAS NOT INCLUDED IN H PETITION APPLICATION, NOR IN ROC EMBASSY NOTE TO DEPARTMENT DETAILING GROUP'S US ITINERARY. WE HAVE NO OBJECTION, HOWEVER, TO SPOKANE VISIT (ASIDE FROM IRRITATION AT NOT HAVING BEEN INFORMED UNTIL NOW) AND THIS ADDITION NEED NOT HINDER VISA ISSUANCE.

2. AS FOR 49 ACROBATS (NATIONAL CHINESE VARIETY TROUPE), NO H PETITION HAS YET BEEN FILED. ROC EMBASSY INFORMS US THAT LO I-CHAN, GIO REPRESENTATIVE IN NEW YORK, NEVER HEARD OF GROUP. EMBASSY ITSELF FIRST HEARD OF GROUP IN SKETCHY CABLE FROM ROC EDUCATION MINISTRY SEPTEMBER 24. WE TOLD ROC EMBASSY HERE WHAT INFORMATION IS NECESSARY TO FILE H PETITION AND, WHEN THEY COME UP WITH INFORMA-
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TION, WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN TO EXPEDITE INS APPROVAL. UPON RECEIPT OF REF B, WE ASKED ROC EMBASSY TO CONTACT TENG IN SPOKANE TO FIND OUT WHAT HE HAS DONE. INS OFFICES IN SEATTLE AND SPOKANE REPORT, HOWEVER, THAT NO PETITION APPLICATION RECEIVED AS OF LATE SEPTEMBER 23.

WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO EITHER APPROVE H PETITION OR B-1 AUTHORITY BY SEPTEMBER 27.

3. WE ARE DISAPPOINTED THAT GROC HAS ONCE AGAIN WAITED UNTIL LAST MINUTE TO BEGIN ITS VISA APPLICATION PROCEDURES AND PARTICULARLY BY LAST MINUTE CONTORTIONS OF ACROBATIC GROUP. AS EMBASSY AWARE, THERE ARE MORE THAN ENTERTAINMENT CONSIDERATIONS INVOLVED. IT WAS PRECISELY THIS TYPE OF SITUATION WHICH LED TO OUR RECENT SERIOUS DIFFICULTIES WITH "CHINA STARS" GROUP. WE HAD FRANKLY HOPED THAT GROC HAD LEARNED THE NECESSARY LESSON FROM THAT EXPERIENCE. WE HAVE MENTIONED THESE THOUGHTS BLUNTLY TO ROC EMBASSY HERE. YOU MAY WISH TO FOLLOW UP IN TAIPEI. FYI. DEPENDING ON THE PLACE OF APPLICATIONS AND COMPLETENESS OF INFORMATION, IT NORMALLY TAKES ABOUT TWO WEEKS TO PROCESS H PETITION FROM ROC, PLUS ADDITIONAL TIME IS NECESSARY FOR INS ACTION OFFICE TO MAIL APPROVED PETITION TO EMBASSY VIA DEPARTMENT. END FYI.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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